



Joseph K. Hemphill

## Mayor's Message

It has been quite a busy year in Rumson with numerous projects that have been completed or underway. It is a good time to update you on the status of the major projects for this year and to summarize the capital improvements that will be completed in the near future.

The Borough Council and I continue to work to maximize the benefit received for our taxpayer dollars spent on Borough projects. Our Borough Engineer is supervising the road paving/sidewalk and curbing projects and the construction at Piping Rock Park. A detailed report on the Borough's yearly activities can be found on the Borough's website.

## Capital Projects

Each year the Borough spends in excess of \$1million on capital improvements and projects. These include street paving; sidewalks and curbing; improvements to our parks and buildings; and equipment for our Public Works Department.

In addition, to allow the Borough to complete additional capital projects without using taxpayer dollars, we aggressively pursue alternative funding sources. In 2018, our grant application process was successful and we have received grants from the State of New Jersey and Monmouth County.

We received \$235,000 from the New Jersey Department of Transportation which provided the funding for the sidewalks and curbs along East River Road and Ridge Road. An additional grant of \$534,000 funded a second phase of this project allowing us to complete sidewalks and curbing along East River Road to Bingham Avenue.

By the end of 2018 we will have paved all of or part of seventeen borough roads, and replaced sidewalks and curbing on six roads, which are heavily used by students walking to and from school.

Other capital projects completed in 2018 include:

- Cleaning and video inspection of 43,000 linear feet of sanitary sewer piping;
- Conover Lane: repair of the high-volume sanitary sewer pipe;
- Club Way pump station: installation of variable-speed pump motor control;
- Upgrade to the Borough's phone system and upgrades to critical IT components within Borough's local network;
- Installation of redundant fiber optic telephone and data connections to Borough Hall, Police, & Public Works;
- Purchase of Public Works equipment: a front end loader with claw, and a hook-lift truck for recycling.

## Navesink River Municipalities Committee (NRMC)

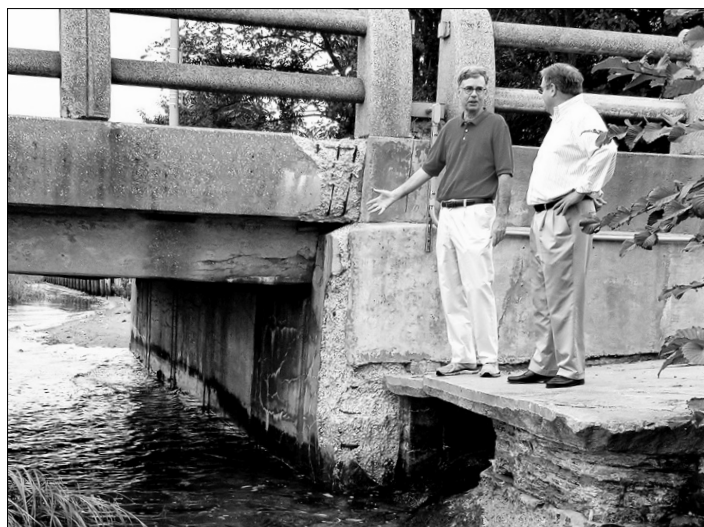
The NRMC advisory group is comprised of representatives from towns in the Navesink River watershed. The group was re-established in 2016 and its mission statement includes monitoring the river's condition to positively impact its health and wellbeing.

The Borough Council named Rumson residents Bob Gura and Bob Santry as our representatives and John Conklin as Council liaison. They are committed to ensuring that the water quality of the Navesink River continues to be healthy and a vibrant resource for our community.

However, water studies by various state agencies revealed that the level of bacteria had risen in the river.

Due to these results, the Department of Environmental Protection expanded the area where recreational and commercial shell fishing is prohibited.

The team coordinated with our Borough Engineer to work with outside professionals to undertake a proactive



John Conklin and Bob Santry examine the pipe under the Oceanic Bridge that was tested and cleared for bacterial pollutants.

testing program to determine whether the town was contributing to the problem. We are pleased to report that this testing program confirmed that NO watershed from the Borough was contributing to the high bacteria count or pollution of the Navesink River.

The NRMC meetings are held the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 in the Red Bank Municipal Complex and are open to the public.

## Meadow Ridge Park

Now that the Piping Rock Park project is underway, we are planning a revitalization of the Meadow Ridge Park South fields in the spring of 2019. This will accommodate the ever-growing number of recreation programs requiring the use of our fields.

The playground equipment at Meadow Ridge Park will also be replaced in 2019. Additionally, in the spring we will install a refillable water bottle station at the park based on a recommendation from our Environmental Commission.

## Environmental and Marine Field Station

The Borough partnership with Monmouth University to build a Field Station behind Borough Hall is moving forward. The University has obtained private funding to engage a prominent architectural firm specializing in this type of building and has begun the concept design phase.

It is anticipated that this initial phase will be completed by June 2019. Mayor Hemphill is representing the Borough on the design committee for the project.

Standout Project - Deane-Porter School Pond

At the request of the Rumson School Board and Superintendent Dr. John Bormann, Borough Engineer David Marks and the Council Construction Committee developed a plan to work with the School District to dredge the pond in front of Deane-Porter School. The pond takes drainage from Ridge Road, Bingham Avenue, and the surrounding area as far out as the Rumson Country Day School hill.

The Borough is providing engineering and consulting engineering support to apply to the Department of Environmental Protection for the permit to dredge the pond back to its original level. As part of our partnership, Monmouth University took soil samples and surveyed the site. We anticipate that the permit process will continue into 2019 and that the final plans for the project will be completed by the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

When the work is complete, the school plans to make an outdoor classroom adjacent to the pond, and Monmouth University faculty and students will work with our school children to educate them and will help to make the Deane-Porter school pond part of the curriculum for the Science and STEM Programs.

Piping Rock Park

We are pleased to note that the pile of dirt in Piping Rock has now been incorporated into the base ground preparation for the park’s renovation. The dirt had been transported across the street from the high school project, saving the town approximately \$50,000 in the overall project cost.

Precise Construction, the low bidder for the project, has been working aggressively to complete

all major work by the end of the year. Sod has been ordered and will be laid prior to Thanksgiving.



Mayor Hemphill with Tony Vlahos, owner of Precise Construction, reviewing the Piping Rock Park grading plan.

This will allow the field to rest until Spring at which time moderate use of the field can be scheduled. This is great news for our recreation programs.

Ready for Leaf Season!

Please remember that only leaves may be placed curbside October 16th through December 31st. No brush, branches, or other cuttings/plants. Co-mingled piles will not be removed. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please contact the Borough with any questions regarding leaf pickup.



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